

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052957

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /040 R

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P 041640Z MAR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

CNO WASHDC

USDAO PARIS

SECDEF WASHDC

USDAO ADDIS ABABA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052957

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI MASS OCLR XA

SUBJECT: USN SHIP REFUELING AT DJIBOUT, FTAI, AND ASSAB,
ETHIOPIA.

REFERENCE: (A) USDAO ADDIS ABABA 0018 JAN 76 (DTG 150510Z
JAN 76); (B) USDAO PARIS 02481 (DTG 271154A JAN 76);
(C) STATE A-3378 (OPNAVINST 3128.3K)

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PAGE 02 STATE 052957

1. BY REFTTEL A USDAO ADDIS ADVISED OF TENSE SITUATION AT PORT OF ASSAB, ETHIOPIA, WHICH SUBJECT TO CHANGE ON SHORT NOTICE. IN VIEW OF THIS SITUATION REFTTEL A PROPOSED THAT USDAO PARIS SEEK FRENCH APPROVAL FOR EMERGENCY, UNSCHEDULED, US NAVY SHIP REFUELING STOPS AT DJIBOUTI, FTAI, WHEN SCHEDULED PORT VISITS TO ASSAB CANCELLED ON SHORT NOTICE. REFTTEL B ADVISED THAT FRENCH NAVY HAD NO OPERATIONAL PROBLEM WITH ACCOMMODATING US NAVY SHIPS MAKING SHORT NOTICE BRIEF FUEL STOPS AT DJIBOUTI. REFTTEL B FURTHER ADVISED THAT AMEMBASSY PARIS CONSIDERED THAT REASONABLE CHANCE FOR APPROVAL BY QUAI EXISTED BUT THAT INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT WOULD BE REQUIRED PRIOR TO INITIATING FORMAL REQUEST TO FRENCH.

2. AMEMBASSY PARIS AUTHORIZED TO APPROACH FRENCH GOVERNMENT WITH VIEW TOWARD OBTAINING ADVANCE DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE FOR US NAVY SHIPS TO MAKE UNSCHEDULED BRIEF FUEL STOPS AT DJIBOUTI IN THOSE INSTANCES WHERE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED PORT VISITS TO ASSAB MUST BE CANCELLED. FUEL STOPS WOULD BE FOR PURPOSES OF FUELING ONLY AND WOULD NOT PREEMPT EXISTING PROCEDURES FOR REQUESTING ROUTINE PORT VISITS TO DJIBOUTI AS PRESCRIBED REF C.

3. IF FRENCH GOVERNMENT APPROVAL FORTHCOMING, THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES WILL BE FOLLOWED:

A. NAVY COMMANDS WILL MAKE UNSCHEDULED, BRIEF FUEL STOPS AT DJIBOUTI ONLY WHEN REQUIRED BY REASONS OF OPERATIONAL NECESSITY.

B. BECAUSE POLITICALLY TENSE SITUATION CAN DEVELOP WITHIN FTAI AT SHORT NOTICE AS INDICATED BY RECENT BUS INCIDENT THERE, AND SOMALI SUSPICIONS REMAIN HIGH NAVY COMMANDS WILL PROVIDE MAXIMUM ADVANCED NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING FOLLOWING ADDRESSEES, WHEN UNSCHEDULED FUEL STOPS AT DJIBOUTI REQUIRED. USDAO PARIS, ADDIS ABABA, MOGADISCIO, SECSTATE WASH.

4. IN MAKING APPROACH TO QUAI YOU MAY POINT OUT THAT
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PAGE 03 STATE 052957

SUCH BRIEF FUEL VISITS ARE FOR OPERATIONAL CONVENIENCE ONLY AND HAVE NO RELATIONSHIP TO CURRENT ROUTINE PORT VISITS TO DJIBOUTI. USDAO PARIS AWARE OF REQUIREMENT AND CAN ASSIST IN DEVELOPING PARTICULARS.

5. SHOULD QUAI APPROVE THIS REQUEST, NAVY WILL ANNOTATE REF C ACCORDINGLY.

6. ON ALL ROUTINE SHIP VISIT REQUESTS FROM DJIBOUTI,
REQUEST YOU INFORM SECSTATE, AMEMBASSY ADDIS, AND
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF CLEARANCE. KISSINGER

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